

Griffmen Should Be in Hunt—Isemann Leads Bowlers—Central Takes Field

GRIFFMEN SHOULD BE IN FLAG HUNT

Have Just as Good a Chance as Any Other Club in American League.

MUCH DEPENDS ON DUMONT

Infield Make-up is Puzzle. With No Position Certain Before Season Opens.

By Louis A. Dunning

A pennant race, running through six months, is a jumbled affair. That's why no one can pick the ultimate winner in February. That's why one cannot say where the Griffmen will finish next October.

Judging from what happened in the American League in 1916, and seeking to argue what may happen this year, the Griffmen will have just as good a chance to win the 1917 pennant as any other club in the circuit. Be sure that, however, one cannot go so much beyond mere baseball enters into a pennant race.

Who can say what luck will be met by Griffith's team? Who can say that a certain much-needed player will remain in the line-up at just the psychological time for the struggle? Who can say how many games will be lost for want of a hit, or because of an egregious error? Who can say anything about baseball?

Has Some Experiments.

Manager Griffith has several experiments to make with his ball club this spring. He did not have them last year.

At first base there will be found either Judge or Shanks. Neither may finish the season there. Judge was a lamentable failure as a batsman last season. Shanks' light hitting is too well known to require comment. Judge may improve enough to fill the bill, but the fans will have to be shown. If he fails, and Shanks' fielding is good enough, the fans will prefer to see the Monacan on the sack, if only for his life, dash, and aggressiveness.

Every other position on the infield will be an experiment for the Old Fox, too.

Second Is a Puzzle.

Second base will be a puzzle for weeks. There is no saying that Edie Foster or Ray Morgan will be considered the regular, even if Joe Leonard does make good at third.

Morgan hit for 267 last year. Foster was down at the 252 mark. In fielding at second Foster's average was but three points better than Morgan's. Apparently, hitting must decide between them.

Crane a Newcomer.

Manager Griffith says he will try out Sam Crane at shortstop, but that means nothing to us. McBride was the second best fielding shortstop in the league last year, and hit for .227. Crane was second best in the international league, but his hitting against minor league pitching was only .222.

Crane may be chosen by the Old Fox to open the season at short, but he may not yet force him to the bench. It takes time to get a major league shortstop, and McBride is considered one of the brainiest players in any major league infield. The youngster from Baltimore will have to prove himself a far better batsman than McBride to oust the veteran.

Moran is not figured to have much of a chance to earn a place for himself this year, though he may fool the wisest war correspondent. Joe Leonard, the war hero and sacker, may shine at the hot corner, but he has yet to prove it. He hit for .271 in forty-five American League games last year, and .269 in ninety-nine American Association contests. These figures are encouraging, and, if his fielding and running is good, he may remain at third for the Griffmen. If he tumbles, Foster will be placed on his old job once more.

The most promising part of the Washington club at this writing is its outfield. Milan will hardly improve, but Rice and Smith look to be good batsmen, something the team needs more than anything else.

Must Have Wallop.

To be a contender in 1917 the Griffmen must have a wallop, and Elmer Smith seems to be that young man. He is a slugger. If he doesn't connect, he fans. But he does meet the ball, it is said. He is sure to be a regular.

Sam Rice's timely hitting last season gave him the highest average on the club, .299, and he is sure to start. In addition to his hitting, Rice is very fast on his feet. With coaching he may develop into a capable baserunner.

Mike Menosky is the best looking

of the other outfield recruits, and may manage to hang on for a while after the season opens, if not through-out.

Dumont May Succeed.

If he reports in good health, as he didn't last spring, George Dumont may succeed. His pitching may make or break the chances of the Griffmen to win the flag, or at least finish high. Johnson, Harper, Gallia, and Ayers, likely to pitch many games, are well known. They need no knocks or boosts. If Dumont delivers the goods, the team should be a winner, so far as mound work is to be considered.

The catching staff is the same, with chances that Alsmith and Ghartry may be worked offener than they were last year.

From our viewpoint, at least four clubs are sure to be in the pennant chase from the beginning, the Red Sox, Yankees, Tigers, and White Sox. It is also possible that the other four clubs may upset all calculations.

Where will the Griffen flag fly? You bet the sun will shine tomorrow!

Georgetown Now Leading For S. A. I. A. A. Honors

Gates, Griffith, Auray and Connolly Star in Johns Hopkins Meet at Baltimore, Putting Blue and Gray On Top.

Georgetown is in the van today by one point for the indoor South Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association point trophy. Bill Gates, Dorsey Griffith, Hector Auray and John Conolly proved themselves sprinters of no mean ability by walking off with the relay race from Virginia, Hopkins, and Maryland State in last night's meet in Baltimore.

In addition to winning the feature event of the meet, the mile title race, Georgetown's athletes flashed to the fore in other events. Hector Auray annexed the century, with Renee in fourth place. Gates took second in the century hurdles and Nugent fourth, while Gates took second, Auray took third and Griffith fourth, in the furlong title event.

There was considerable jockeying by Coaches O'Reilly, Lannigan and Byrd in last night's meet. Intent upon winning out in the feature relay, Byrd kept Brewer out of the century and furlong while O'Reilly entered Griffith in the 220-yard dash only. Griffith would have won the 220 had he been less intent upon shouldering Wallace, of Virginia, in the back stretch.

Brewer was an almost sure winner in the century and ran his first furlong in the quarter in the relay in almost record time. He spent his energy, however, and was forced to drop back giving way to Virginia.

Gates Performs Well.

Bill Gates got a chance to distinguish himself. He won the open hurdles, was second in the South Atlantic hurdles and second in the 220 South Atlantic, besides running a great race in the relay.

Washington's schoolboy athletes swamped those of Episcopal High School, Baltimore Poly, and Baltimore City College. Monroe Sheehan, running from scratch, won the half mile while McNamara, his team mate, annexed the century. G. O. Lynch, of Eastern College, won the scholastic quarter, with Stein, of Central, second. Just how Lynch can compete with the schoolboys while representing a college is a mystery. The matter will probably be looked into.

Central Wins Race.

Central's seventeen-year-old relay team, composed of Connor, McLean, Nash, and Latta, literally cleaned up for the veteran Episcopal High School quintet, which defeated Tome here last week. Latta's quarter was a heady race, and he nosed out Knapp by two yards. Central will go to the Penn relays this spring following last night's meritorious performance.

In the open events Earle Eby, of the Chicago A. A., won the quarter and half. Eby's running was the fastest in the half ever seen in the Fifth Regiment, not excepting the former performance of the great Ted Meredith. Eby ran his race from scratch and won in 1:38.3, repeating in the quarter in 52.3.

Carroll Triumphs.

Carroll Institute triumphed in the three-mile special over its old rival the Baltimore C. C. C. Downey and Blumer showed the way to the Baltimore men and were closely followed by other team mates.

Catholic University handily defeated St. John's, G. W. U., and State seconds in the relays. The Hartford A. C. youngsters remain undefeated. White, Leverton, Selye, and Schmidt winning a heady race from the crack of the gun. Bob Maxam, former Western High School track captain, representing Penn freshmen, won the open hundred and was second in the open furlong. Maxam would have won had he gotten up in the field on the back stretch instead of waiting.

Will Not Take Unsigned Players to Training Camp, Despite Results.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25.—Connie Mack and his first squad of players, mostly pitchers, will leave Tuesday for Fort Pierce, Fla., to prepare for the grand trial to be taken up at Jacksonville. Manager Mack will take with him Horn, Russell, Johnson, and Adams, all pitchers. At Fort Pierce Ellis Johnson, Rube Schauer, Hill, Anderson, and "Liz" Smith, pitchers, will be found, as well as Haley and Meyer, catchers.

This squad will be drilled by Manager Mack until March 10, when they will report at the regular training camp of the Mackmen at Jacksonville, Fla. When the camp at Jacksonville is complete Mack's squad will be made up of thirteen pitchers, three catchers, six infielders and five outfielders.

Last to Sign Up.

The last to accept terms are Grover, an infielder who finished the season with the Athletics last year, and Noyes, who was drafted from the Portland club of the Pacific Coast League. Walvers have been received on these terms. Manager Mack has made up his mind not to bother any longer with the players who refused to sign, but telegrams were received from both Grover and Noyes yesterday that terms had been accepted.

The infield has been practically made up to consist of McInnis, first base; Otis Lawry or Grover, second base; Witt, shortstop, and Ray Bates, third base.

Thrasher Not in Line.

It is known that Thrasher, the slugger from the Southern League, has refused to sign at the terms offered. He will be treated just like the veteran trio, Bush, Strunk, and Schang. Ping Bodie, so far, is the only outfielder signed for 1917. He is an experienced player, and is sure of a place in the outfield, but beside him may be found rookies.

William Johnson, a Chicago semi-pro star, comes with a host of references, and there are also Fred Ley, a Colorado semi-pro, and King, from Massachusetts Aggies.

BEGIN TRAINING

Coach Hecox Believes Ice Will Be Gone for Potomac Lads.

Coach Clarence Hecox will call out his Potomac oarsmen Thursday, provided the river is sufficiently free from ice. Unusual interest is being shown among the members, and a large squad of candidates is expected to report.

Potomac opens its rowing season April 14, the senior eight tackling the middle at Annapolis. The club will later be represented in the American Henley at Philadelphia in May, the Southern Rowing Association's regatta at Baltimore in June, and the People's Regatta in Philadelphia in July.

In the national championships, booked for Philadelphia in August, and the Middle States championships on Labor Day, the Potomac Club will be well represented.

PURCHASES JOE WOOD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Robert McRoy, acting for Jim Dunn, has paid Harry H. Frazee \$15,000 for Joe Wood, once the American League's star pitcher. Wood plans to leave here tomorrow for Cleveland, where he will sign a contract for 1917 and go to New Orleans with the first squad of Indians.

ADOPTS ITS SCHEDULE.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 25.—The 1917 schedule of the Southern Baseball Association, adopted yesterday, provides for 152 games with the season opening on April 12 and closing September 15. A post-season series between the championship team and a nine picked from the other seven clubs was arranged for, seven games to be played.

OLD RIVALS MEET IN MANY CONTESTS

George Washington and Hilltoppers in Every Event Friday Night.

George Washington and Georgetown will face each other in every event started at the annual Buff and Blue meet, staged Friday night at Convention Hall. Rivalry between these two local institutions continues to become hotter and hotter ever since they began meetings in basketball, track and football, and Friday night's rooting should make a record.

Five colleges will make every effort to win the point trophy, George Washington, Georgetown, Virginia, Johns Hopkins and Lafayette. Johns Hopkins won the Georgetown meet this year, but the Baltimoreans will have their work cut out for them to repeat.

Two Title Events.

Two South Atlantic championships will be decided at the Buff and Blue meet, the 440-yards and the two-mile. A classy field is found in the 440-yards, Sullivan, of Johns Hopkins and formerly of Catholic University; Auray and Gates, of Georgetown; Kean, of C. U., and Gladmy, of Washington and Lee, will make a battle for the title.

Judging from the entries received already, Johns Hopkins hopes to win the point trophy by sheer force of numbers. However, Georgetown has thirty-one entries, many capable athletes.

Small, But Powerful.

Washington and Lee's squad of ten is small but most powerful and the Lexingtonians are sure to be up among the winners.

Lafayette makes its bow to Washington with a strong squad of indoor athletes.

Georgetown prep will enter many lads in the scholastic events.

Relay Races Many.

As usual, there will be many relay races, always popular with the throng. George Washington faces Carleise. Catholic University will run Richmond College and Georgetown will tackle Lehigh.

Virginia's freshman relay will meet Mercedesburg, the most consistent winner in America, of the national scholastic title.

Mike Thompson, who refereed the Georgetown meet, will act in the same capacity Friday night, with Pete Carney, of Philadelphia, official starter.

MAY BUY GIANTS

Sinclair and Ward Reported to Be Negotiating for the Club.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—A report was current yesterday that negotiations for the sale of the New York club of the National League to Harry Sinclair and George S. Ward, backers of the Federal League, were being carried on. Efforts to get either denial or confirmation of the story were unavailing.

It became known that John McGraw was not, as reported, on his way to Petersburg, Va., to see Davy Robertson, the outfielder who refused to sign a contract. It was reported from Petersburg that Robertson and his father had left for this city to confer with Harry Hempstead, McGraw's delaying his departure for Marlin lent some color to the story of the sale of the Giants.

PELL TRIUMPHANT

Vanquishes Mortimer, in National Racquets Event.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Seldom has the final round of a national racquets championship in singles been won more decisively, more brilliantly, than yesterday's closing match of this year's tournament at the Racquet and Tennis Club, which saw the triumph of Clarence C. Pell, of Tuxedo, over Stanley G. Mortimer, the titleholder, also of Tuxedo. These two rivals have met in many previous battles in the elite-walled courts, but it is doubtful if Mortimer was ever forced to capitulate before such a one-sided score. Where a bitter struggle had been expected, Pell won in straight games, and the record of his triumph read 15-11, 15-13.

Mortimer was overwhelmed by the remarkable racquet work of his opponent. It was this rather than any lack of accustomed skill on his part that decided the issue. It may truthfully be said that Pell transcended the bounds of the game, but he had anything like an even chance. Mortimer would have been forced to play super-racquets.

HERZOG UP IN AIR

Giants' Infielder Wants to Become Star Aviator.

Word came from St. Petersburg, Fla., where the Phils will again train this year, that Charles Lincoln Herzog, the peppy infielder of the Giants, is busily engaged in learning the aviation game. Herzog is a pupil of Jack McGee, who flies a new model Curtiss flying boat. Every day McGee and Herzog ascend and fly around Tampa bay, the ball-player often handling the craft alone.

Herzog intends to take ten more lessons before going to the Phils, and, joining the Giants' training camp. The baseball star will at once apply for an aviator's license and intends to buy a flying boat of his own and fly around his home in Maryland. If America is involved in the European war, Herzog will at once offer his services to the Government.

ST. ALBANS WIN.

St. Albans School closed its basketball season yesterday by defeating the Marston School team of Baltimore by 38 to 9. The Washington team outclassed the Baltimore quint in its own gymnasium in Baltimore. Morse and Schroers starred for the St. Albans five.

GALLAUDET LOSES.

Gallaudet closed its Northern trip in Philadelphia last night by losing a 26-to-24 game to Temple College. Wilman and Wenger were the star players for the Gallaudet team.

FOSTER A SPEAKER.

Eddie Foster, the Griffmen's wee infielder, today addressed the men's class at the Second Baptist Church, Fourth street and Virginia avenue.

MAULBETSCH A COACH.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 25.—John Maulbetsch, former captain of the University of Michigan football team, has been engaged as coach of the Waite High School football team of Toledo, according to announcement made last night by directors of the board of education. Announcement also was made that Maulbetsch had been appointed instructor in elementary mathematics.

CUBS IN PASADENA.

PASADENA, Cal., Feb. 25.—The Chicago Cubs, who will train here for the approaching baseball season, arrived yesterday, and tomorrow the athletes will begin their work. The Cubs will remain in California a month.

LOUDEN WON'T SIGN.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 25.—Bill Louden, the Reds' second baseman, has refused to sign a contract for 1917. Manager Mathewson says that Louden will have to sign before accompanying the team to the training camp.

BOB THAYER'S GOSSIP ON SPORTING MATTERS

Instead of annually bickering about the Amateur Athletic Union officials, handicapper included, would it not first be wise for Washington colleges, schools, and clubs to get into the or say? These many matters of Washington has maintained discrimination by Baltimore against the athletes here.

Those who are now in the throes of another A. A. U. squabble might get on the inside by paying down a small sum and gaining admission to the union, where they will have the right to be heard and the right to have a disposition of the troubles which seem to be recurring with frequency.

There are more Washington athletes in competition in the regular A. A. U. meets than from Baltimore. In addition, the Washington lads have shown themselves to be better, stronger competitors than those from the Monumental City. As far as organization and executive ability in A. A. U. matters, Baltimore men have had the edge on their Washington rivals. The chance to dispose of some of these weighty matters will be forthcoming if the Washington men get in line in the A. A. U. and take a voice in the proceedings.

Grover Cleveland Alexander will draw \$12,500 a year for playing with the Phillies. This is at least \$2,500 more than President Baker was willing to give him when the impasse first came up. The public of Philadelphia, according to the newspapers, demanded that Alexander get his raise in salary. And so now that same public will be compelled to pay this sum.

President Baker's park now has 4,500 quarter seats, but by the time the curtain rolls up on the proceedings there will be only 2,500 of them. Furthermore, the 50-cent seats will be decreased in number, two-bits being tacked on to many of them.

It isn't only potatoes and cabbage that is high these days.

Now all the Washington Kennel Club wants is the entry of Conejo Wyccollar Boy for the April breed show here.

Increasing the number of 'midshipmen at Annapolis and adding eight

months to the age limit may go far toward putting the sailors on an equality with the soldiers at West Point when it comes to building up football elevens. For years the Army has benefited by its greater age limit. This has permitted former college stars entering the academy on the Hudson and making records in the annual service contests. The Navy, held down to a lower age limit, has seldom been able to get any of these athletes leaving colleges. But if the Navy can get one or two good men with college football training, that annual clash with the Army may be far closer than ever before.

With Mike Martin arriving in August and many pitchers packing in to come to town, the baseball season in the Capital begins to perk up. Come to think of it, it's only seven weeks to the opening of big league hostilities.

Boxing is to die in New York State next January, and the greedy promoters have themselves to blame. Commissioner Wenck is charged with not carrying out the demands of the present law, which may be true. But back of it all is the tale of greed and throat-cutting among the promoters in the big town by the East river. The law has been broken in New York city on an average of three times a week for the past year, as evidenced above. But boxing will not perish from the land altogether with its passing in New York. The pendulum will swing back eventually. Just now New York is willing to let it slide, believing that when it is revived, new promoters will be found mixed up in it.

Obtaining "Pop" Hornsby may prove a great stroke for the Cubs, but what will the fans of St. Louis say? Hornsby is about the only star with the Cardinals. If he goes, the team might as well make arrangements to play all its games this season on the road. St. Louis is tired of the way the Cards have been handled. No money is spent. The stands are old and almost falling down. The manager is seldom given any players worth while. With the Browns forging to the front in popularity, it behooves the National League to get busy and see that the Cardinals pass into the hands of somebody willing to make a big league club out of the proposition.

DIAMOND PLAYERS CALLED TOMORROW

Coach Metzler, of Central, Gets Jump on Other School Teams.

Central will get the jump on the other scholastic baseball teams tomorrow, when Coach C. A. Metzler calls out battery candidates for the team. The aspiring pitchers and catchers will be put to work in the Central gymnasium.

Two promising pitchers from last year will be on hand for the workouts. Sam Gottlieb, a veteran of the past two years, and "Reds" Shafer, a left-hander, are expected to make the running this season. Gould Menefee, who coached the team last season, left a wealth of material for this year's nine. "Zeke" Bailey, who caught last year, will probably be on the job behind the bat again. Rosa White, at first, seems to be a fixture.

Capt. Jake MacDonald returned to school before the Christmas holidays, and can be used either in the infield or outfield. Edwin Strohecker, Forrest Daly, Buddy Dawson, and Paul Cooke, outfielders, are ready to play.

Central's success in last night's track meet in Baltimore means that the relay team will be sent to the Penn Relay games. Stein, Swain, Latta, Morgan, Connor, Tabor, and Exnicio performed creditably when Bill Foley took them to Baltimore last night.

DODGERS SIGNING UP

Charlie Ebbets Now Has Enough Players to Begin Work.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—President Charles H. Ebbets of the Brooklyn club last night announced that twenty-one of the Brooklyn players had signed contracts and that one other, George Cutshaw, had wired from his winter home in Florida that he was ready to sign.

Six of the twenty-one signed players Daubert, Marquand Cheney, Johnston, Coombs and Merkle are working under unexpired contracts. Those who have signed new contracts are pitchers Appleton, Cadore, Dell Durnine, and Malik; catchers Miller Myers and Snyder; infielders Adams, Fabrique, Getz, Malone, and Smyth, and outfielders Hy Myers and Hickman.

Among the Superba regulars who have not signed are pitchers Pfeiffer and Smith; infielders Mike Mowrey, Ollie O'Mara and Ivan Olson and outfielders Wheat and Stengel.

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TIGERS' TWIRLING REMAINS PROBLEM

If Jennings' Men Deliver Goods, Detroit Should Be in Pennant Hunt.

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 25.—The prediction is justified that Detroit will have the strongest team this year that has represented it in American League race since the old championship days. There is, nevertheless, an atmosphere of uncertainty about the club that has local dopesters guessing.

The outlook is bright, but there is a calamity hunch prevalent. On form, the team should be exactly as strong on attack as it was in 1915 and again in 1916. In addition there should be, an improved pitching staff.

Five outfielders will be taken to the training camp at Wazahachie, Tex. Of these, Cobb and Veach will play regularly. Whether Crawford will again appear in right is a question. Understudying him will be Harper and Nicholson, newcomers to the circuit, and possibly Harry Hillman, the hard-hitting first baseman, who appeared to advantage early last season. Crawford couldn't play half the time in 1916, and he averaged barely a putout a game for those in which he did appear. Wahoo Sam probably is through.

Infield as Good as Ever.

The old infield of Burns, Young, Dush and Vitt is expected to be as good as ever. Re-enforcing the infield will be rookies Dyer, Ellison, and Jones, all good batsmen. It is planned to carry them throughout the season as pinch hitters and emergency men. They will be developed to take regular berths two or three seasons hence.

Stanage and "Tub" Spencer will do the catching. Spencer came back to the majors last fall, and was able to break into a score or more games. He demonstrated that he could maul major league pitching. His average was .371 and his backstopping was of the highest order. Second string catchers will be McKee and Yelle, the latter a recruit from the International League.

There is no good reason to expect ill of this array of talent. It has the class. There is a weakness in right field, but it was there last season and wasn't disastrous.

Pitching Big Problem.

The pitching, as usual for the Tigers, will prove a big problem. Harry C. Easlick always wins his twenty games or more, and will be anchor man. Dubuc is gone, his place having been taken by Howard Ehmke, a young right hander who made a great record in the New York State League and who has been in the majors during the closing weeks of the season. He is ranked as a find.

Bill James will get into shape this year or go hungry. He has a lot of ability. Willie Macchell did some fine hurling last fall, after he had been transferred from Cleveland. Boland has lived out of doors all winter playing jockey to a mail truck, and is in better shape than he ever was. Cunningham is a youngster who is developing nicely. Deane had a horrible season in 1916. No one knows what he will do this year. They look good for the coming season, but as usual the Detroit critics are leary of the fingers.

Some new slab talent will be tried out. Chief among these recruits will be Couch, from Frisco; Watson, a southpaw; Jennings has been farming out for development, and Jones, from the Central Association.

PROS WILL PLAY

April 3 Probable Date for Golf Tourney at Columbia Club.

Washington is to have a professional golf tourney at Columbia April 3, with many of the country's best players taking part. The date is not definitely settled, but the month has been chosen.

Walter Hagen, Western, and open champion; Jim Barnes, of Philadelphia, champion of the Professional Golfers' Association; Alex. Smith, of Wykagyl, thr